

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2006, Applicant has amended claim 1 to further clarify the scope of the present invention. Claims 2-12 were amended to reflect proper antecedent basis. Claim 13 was cancelled. New claims 14 and 15 were added. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and for new claim 14 may be found, for example, on page 2, lines 7-15. Support for new claim 15 may be found in previously presented claim 13. No new matter has been added.

With regard to the objection of claims 7-12, which the Examiner alleged were unclear as to the term “smaller”, and whether said term is related to width or length of each of the plurality of outgoing power lines, Applicants submit that the claims as written are accurate and complete. The term “smaller” means that the width of the respective plurality of outgoing lines is smaller than distances between the adjacent outgoing power lines of both the power supply paths. A description of this limitation of the present invention may be found, for example, in Fig. 4 and page 9, line 31- page 10, line 5 of the specification.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter reflected in claims 5 and 6.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

II. The Rejection Of Claims 1-4 And 7-13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kosegawa et al. (USP No. 6,028,580). Applicant respectfully submits that Kosegawa fails to anticipate the pending claims for at least the following reasons.

With regard to the present invention, amended claim 1 recites a structure of a power supply path utilized in the design of an integrated circuit, wherein in every cell in the integrated circuit, a power supply path on a power supply side of a high potential and a power supply path on a power supply side of a low potential are provided opposite each other, and wherein in every cell in the integrated circuit, the power supply path on the power supply side of the high potential and the power supply path on the power supply side of the low potential and the power supply side of a potential each comprise: a main power line; and a plurality of outgoing power lines branching off from the main power line, wherein a plurality of pitches between adjacent outgoing power lines of the plurality of branched outgoing lines in the longitudinal direction of the main line are set so as to be equal to each other.

In contrast to the present invention, Kosegawa only discloses the structure of power supply lines of buffers in a driving circuit integrated type active-matrix type liquid crystal display device (see, abstract). Kosegawa is silent with respect to the structure of power supply lines of any other cells, for example, shift resistors. Thus, Kosegawa fails to disclose a structure of a power supply path utilized in the design of an integrated circuit wherein *in every cell in the integrated circuit* a plurality of pitches between adjacent outgoing power lines of the plurality of branched outgoing lines in the longitudinal direction of the main line *are set so as to be equal to each other.*

The significance of this distinction is explained in the specification. Page 1, lines 19-27 describes the prior art as follows:

“The estimate of the charge and discharge times is made after cell arrangement is completed and the power supply path is determined. Even when configurations and dimensions of the outgoing lines of the power supply path are different from each other, since the estimate is made after the cell arrangement is completed, there is no problem. In other words, since the estimate is made after the cell arrangement is completed, correlation of the configurations and dimensions of the outgoing lines can be various.”

In other words, each cell in an integrated circuit disclosed in the prior art has its own structure of power supply path and the estimate of the charge and discharge times can not be made until the cell arrangement is completed. In contrast to the prior art, the object of the present invention is to provide a structure of a power supply path utilized in the design of an integrated circuit in which an estimate for charge and discharge times and power consumption of a part to be controlled can be made at a stage before cell arrangement is completed. The present invention may accomplish this by allowing for the structure of the power supply path to be identical in every cell in an integrated circuit.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed, either expressly or inherently in a prior art reference, *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Commission*, 808 F.2d 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1986), and Kosegawa does not disclose a structure of a power supply path utilized in the design of an integrated circuit wherein in every cell in the integrated circuit a plurality of pitches between adjacent outgoing power lines of the plurality of branched outgoing lines in the longitudinal direction of the main line are set so as to be equal to each other. Therefore, as it is apparent from the foregoing that Kosegawa fails to anticipate

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amended claim 1 or any dependent claims thereon, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

III. All Dependent Claims Are Allowable Because The Independent Claim From Which They Depend Is Allowable

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as claim 1 is patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

Having responded to all open issues set forth in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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